



# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2015

Jesus said to her: *'Give me a drink'*

Thank you for your interest in these resources for the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year we rejoice in the opportunity to pray with the Christians of Brazil.

For 70 years, The Canadian Council of Churches has been witnessing to ecumenism, to God's unity in diversity in Canada and today, with 25 member denominations representing over 85% of the Christians in Canada, is the most inclusive church council in the world.

For over 40 of those years, the Commission on Faith & Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches has assembled an ecumenical writing team to take the prayers developed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, adapt them for a Canadian context, and create additional related materials.

John, the evangelist is recounting the story in John 4:7 when Jesus on his way through Samaria asks a woman 'Give me a drink,' challenging traditional conventions of sharing with 'the other' and very much challenging us about the divisions in the Body of Christ. Be a part of the praying, be open to the challenge, and be with your sisters and brothers of the whole Body of Christ.

The artwork for the theme (displayed on the poster, the bulletin cover, and the bookmark) was designed by Sebastiano Stabile, as part of a competition held by the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism. Sebastiano submitted the following description of his work:

*The four hands coming together from four directions are a sign of unity despite sometimes opposing differences. The circle reinforces the idea of unity. The act of Christians*

*coming together is a sign of the times, evidence of Christ in action in the World. Therefore we see the cross between the hands. The different coloured hands, without gender, remind us that in Christ there is neither slave nor free, neither man nor woman, for we are all in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28).*

We are continuing the same format as in previous years and have created a flexible set of printed resources, which can be ordered separately as needed. You can also download the resources from our website [www.weekofprayer.ca](http://www.weekofprayer.ca).

The materials you have received are a *starter kit*, which includes the following:

- A poster
- A blank bulletin cover
- A photocopyable, formatted text of the prayer service
- The Eight Days of Prayer daily readings
- A bookmark
- An order form (so you can order more of the above, if you wish)
- A comments / feedback form
- An introduction to this year's theme
- Planning tips for the worship service
- Hymn suggestions
- An introduction to the worship service
- A biblical commentary & homiletic helps based on this year's text
- Ways to approach Bible study
- Ecumenical background on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

We are very interested in receiving your feedback on the format as well as on the materials in general, and ask

that you take the time to complete the comments form after this year's Week of Prayer is over. You are most welcome to contact us at any time with your comments or questions.

We trust that this resource will be of use to you as you join together with millions of other Christians around the world in praying for the unity of Christ's Church.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Susan Climo*

Chair of the Week of Prayer Writing Team

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